

163-163½-165 West Main Street

The row 163-163½-165 West Main Street amply fills the southeast corner of the intersection formed by West Main Street (St. Route 32) and Bush Alley in Westminster. Each of the three units that comprise the row is identical consisting of an eastern entrance door, a 2-story, squared bay window, and a gable-dormered mansard roof. The units, dating from c. 1910, rest on a high uncoursed fieldstone foundations, which are hidden, in part, by 3 wooden steps that lead to each door.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME
 HISTORIC
 AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
 STREET & NUMBER
 163-163½-165 West Main Street (MD 32)
 CITY, TOWN
 Westminster VICINITY OF
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
 7
 STATE
 Maryland COUNTY
 Carroll

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
 NAME
 Multiple Ownerships: See Attached Sheet Telephone #: _____
 STREET & NUMBER
 CITY, TOWN
 VICINITY OF
 STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
 Carroll County Office Building Liber #: _____
 STREET & NUMBER
 Center Street Folio #: See Attached Sheet
 CITY, TOWN
 Westminster STATE
 Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
 TITLE
 None
 DATE
 _____ FEDERAL _____ STATE _____ COUNTY _____ LOCAL
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
 CITY, TOWN
 STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	(On Main Street Facade)	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The row 163-163½-165 West Main Street amply fills the southeast corner of the intersection formed by West Main Street (St. Route 32) and Rush Alley in Westminster. Each of the three units that comprise the row is identical, consisting of an eastern entrance door, a 2-story, squared, bay window, and a gabled mansard roof. The units rest on high, uncoursed fieldstone foundations, which are hidden, in part, by the three wooden steps that lead to each door. They are, however, exposed under the bay windows, which are pierced by 4 narrow double-hung sash windows (two to the north, one to the east and west); each windows has one-over-one panes, white wooden sills and three course gauged flat arches. Above the common bond wall, and above the thin but deep two-part modillioned entablature, each of the three units has two, pedimental-capped, 1/1 dormer windows piercing the slate-covered mansard roof. All these six windows are identical, with their denticulated pediments, their broad white wood enframement, and their paning. A simple, and deteriorating, crown molding runs around the top edge of the roof.

The exterior walls of the end units are windowed: number 163 has four 1/1 windows on its second floor, and three below; no. 165 has four 1/1 windows on its ground floor and four above. Also, on the second floor of 165's west facade is a three-sided oriel window, each side having a 1/1 window in it between a panelled base and a thin modillioned cornice. The rear of the buildings are a bit utilitarian in appearance. It seems likely that, originally, a two-tiered, shed-roofed porch ran across the south facade of all three buildings. It still does for the two to the west; no. 163 has filled it in with aluminum siding. This siding has two bays per floor, a glass and aluminum storm door to the west on the ground floor and 1/1 windows elsewhere. A single flight of steps runs up to the second and to the third stories of the other two units; bays on the third floor read, from the west, WWDW, on the second floor DWDW, and on the ground floor WDWDW. The area immediately to the south of the building has been paved over and is used as a parking lot; the southern half of the lot has been sold away.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1910

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The angular Main Street facade of this row of buildings combines various issues that seemed to have bothered builders in Westminster's West End around the turn of the century. There seems to have been a desire, or a restricted-space need, to build row houses - the bow front set of buildings 119-121, is but one example. There also seems to have been a need, as simplified by no. 117, to build something fashionable, something felt to be more sophisticated than the normal, cleanly-simple, 3-bay, 2½-story structure. The Second Empire style came to Westminster with the monumental Charles Reifsnider House at 230 East Main Street, and in the remodelled Blizzard House at 295 East Main Street. These two important houses served to make the style acceptable for others, and others would build modified - i.e. cheaper - essays in the style.

The early history of this lot is discussed in the report for no. 147, one of the many lots owned by Elijah Wagoner. The lot was sold various times (deed 26/77, 87/492, 102/355, 102/356) before it vested in Charles G. Gorsuch. It was probably he who built the row, as he bought title to the whole 50' strip, in October, 1905, and executors, Mary H. Gorsuch and John A. Caldwell, sold off 15' subdivisions (doubtless representing each unit). These deeds date from the early 1920's viz., 140/309 (dated May 24, 1942 to Frank T. Shaffer for 165), 140/388 (dated June 20, 1922 to Harry and William E. Kane), and 141/556 (dated March 22, 1923 to Nicholes H. Hill).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being known as lot no. 20 of B. S. Pigmans Addition to the City
of Westminster.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Christopher Weeks, Consultant

April

ORGANIZATION

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

163 West Main Street - Charles E. Petry 848-5763
163 West Main Street
Westminster, Maryland Deed: 453/107

163½-165 West Main Street - George E. Croft, Romaine C. Croft (his wife)
LaRue G. Croft (his mother) Deeds: 352/3, 537/102

George E. Croft - 240 Augusta Avenue 848-7690
Westminster, Maryland

LaRue G. Croft - 165 West Main Street 848-7964
Westminster Maryland

50%



507

E-13

CARR 450
163-163 $\frac{1}{2}$ -165 W. MAN
WEITMANN

W. Jacobe 3/77
C. Veck



100

CARR 450
163-165 U. MAW ST
WESTMINSTER
S. JONES
C. W. H. 2/77